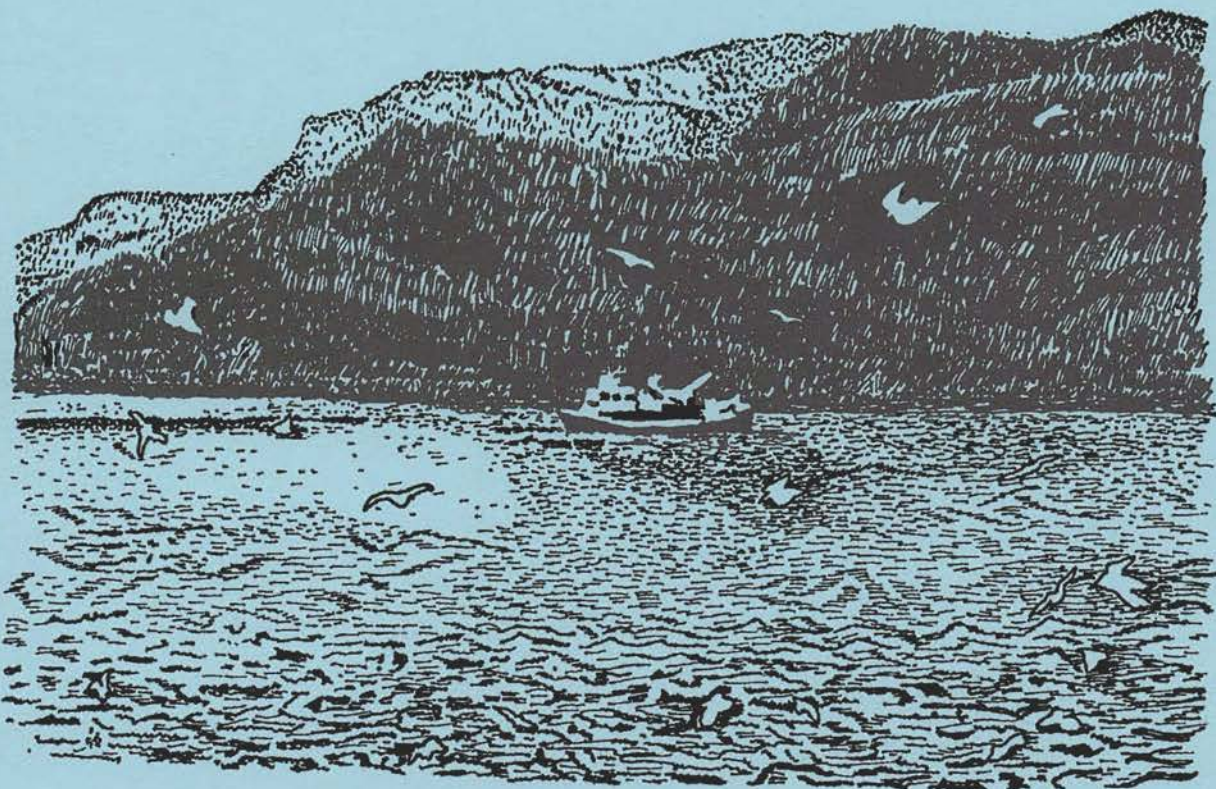




Report to the Fleet

March, 1997



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Restricted Access Management Division
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Report to the Fleet

March, 1997

To the IFQ Fleet:

Greetings from the Restricted Access Management (RAM) Division. As this third year of fishing under the Pacific halibut and sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program gets under way, we take the opportunity to provide you with this "Report to the Fleet."

The Report contains general information about the IFQ program (its history and main elements), a recap of the performance of the program and the fleet during the 1996 season, a discussion of the 1997 season (and the numbers, rules and regulations that will govern it), a discussion of ideas for program changes, and a variety of charts and tables in the appendix. We hope you find it useful; of course, we welcome any questions you may have.

The RAM Division may be reached as follows:

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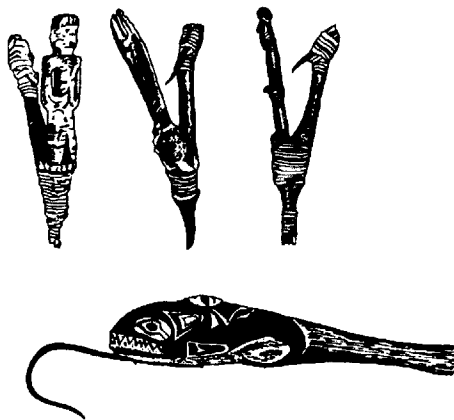
Thanks for your continuing interest in the IFQ program, and have a great 1997 season!

Sincerely,

Philip J. Smith
Chief, RAM Division

Table of Contents

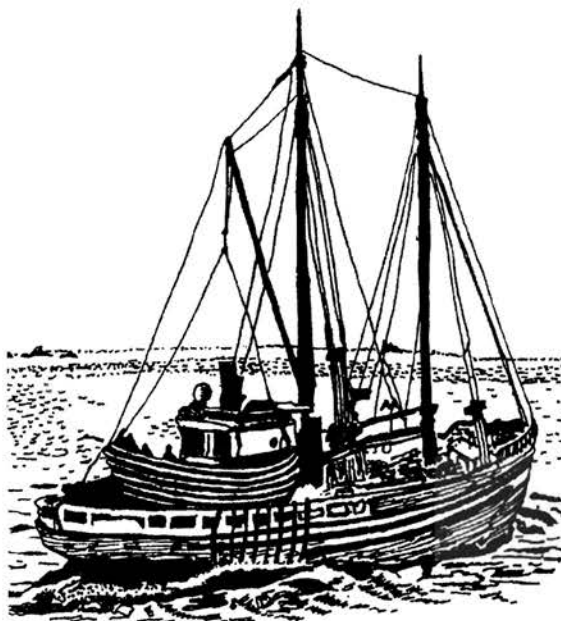
<i>Section 1: The IFQ Program - General Information.</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Section 2: 1996 IFQ Season in Review.</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Section 3: The 1997 Season and Program Changes</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Section 4: The RAM Division</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Appendix 1: QS Use Caps and Vessel IFQ Caps</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Appendix 2: 1996 Comparative Harvest by Month.</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Appendix 3: 1996 Top Landings by Port</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Appendix 4: Transfer Activities.</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Appendix 5: QS Pools and TACs</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Appendix 6: Sweep-up Limits and "Fish-down" Provisions</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Appendix 7: References and Resources</i>	<i>24</i>



*Original drawings and adapted illustrations by Ellery Lumbab, NMFS
Longliner scene on page 15 by Julianna Humphreys*

Section 1:

The IFQ Program: General Information



1997 marks the third year of commercial fishing for halibut and sablefish under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program. This season shows promise for even smoother sailing than the last two years, as quota share holders become more accustomed to fishing under the program, and fisheries managers continue to revise and refine program requirements. Prior to the start of the 1997 season in March, over 7,500 IFQ permits were issued to those participating in the sablefish and halibut IFQ fisheries.

A Brief History

In December of 1991, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Council) proposed an IFQ program as the best alternative to address problems with the harvesting capacity in the Pacific halibut and sablefish longline fisheries off Alaska. The decision to propose an IFQ program

resulted from years of discussion and debate about the best way to address the problems created by over-capitalization in the fisheries (sometimes expressed as "too many boats chasing too few fish"). These problems included short "derby" openings (in most areas, seasons lasted less than a week), lost gear (and resulting "ghost fishing"), gear conflicts, safety concerns, poor product quality, low ex-vessel prices, and a host of other concerns.

The IFQ approach was chosen to provide fishermen with the authority to decide how much, and what type, of investment they wished to make to harvest the resource. By guaranteeing a certain amount of catch per season, and by extending the season over a period of 8 months, those who held the IFQ could determine where and when to fish, how much gear to deploy, and how much overall investment in harvesting they would make.



One way to achieve the advantages of such a program was to insure the transferability of quota from one person to another. But concerns were expressed about allowing quota to be freely transferred. To address the fear that most of the quota could eventually be concentrated into a very few hands (thus undermining the economies of fishery-dependent communities), and that quota could be held by persons who do not fish (thus establishing a "landlord" class of quota holders), the Council designed a number of constraints to unrestricted transferability. This was done to ensure that the characteristics of the fleet that existed prior to the IFQ program (an essentially "owner-operator" fleet of catcher vessels of various lengths) would not be fundamentally changed by the program.

Following further refinement, the Council's IFQ proposal was approved by the Secretary of Commerce, and finally published in the Federal Register in

November of 1993. The IFQ program is administered by the National Marine Fisheries Service, Restricted Access Management Division (RAM or Division).

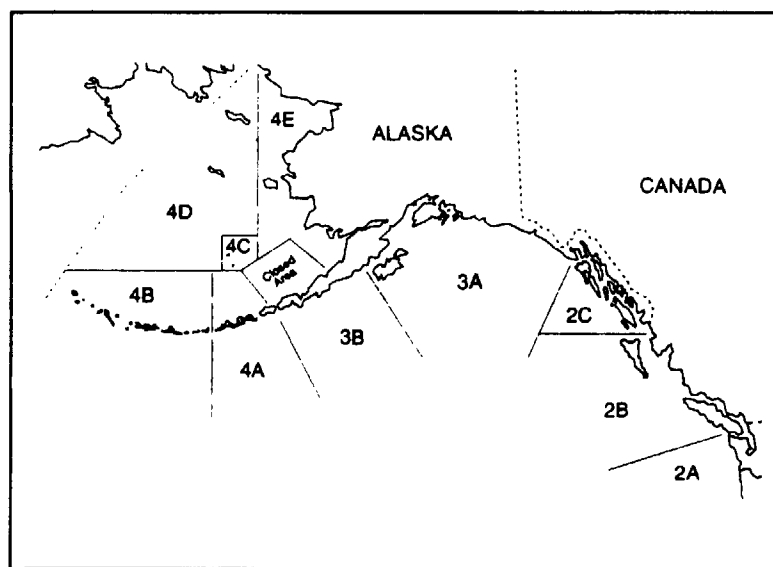
General Program Description

Under the IFQ program, eligible persons were issued Quota Shares based on halibut and sablefish landings made aboard vessels that they owned or leased during the late 1980's and in 1990. Applications for initial issuance of Quota Shares (QS) were received and processed by the Division throughout 1994, and issuance of QS to eligible applicants began in November of 1994.

To determine how many pounds of fish a QS holder may harvest during each year's fishing season (i.e., the person's annual IFQ), the Division first establishes the Quota Share Pool (QSP) for both species and each regulatory area. There are 8

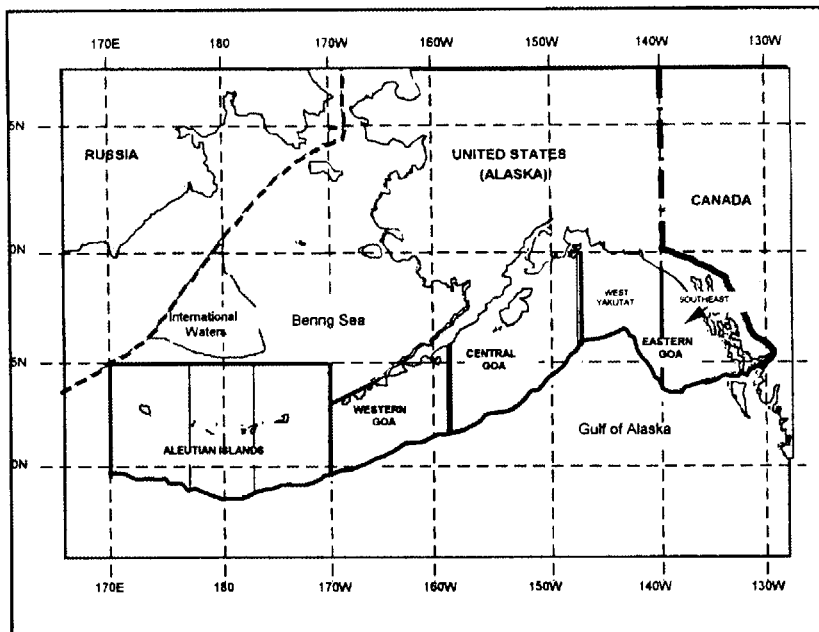
halibut regulatory areas and 6 sablefish regulatory areas in Alaska (see charts). The QSP is the sum of all the QS units that have been issued in a given area. The QSP is calculated annually (on January 31) and varies slightly from year to year due to administrative adjustments.

After fisheries managers determine what the annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) will be, each QS holder's QS for the area is divided by that area's QSP and the resulting fraction is then multiplied by the TAC. This



Halibut Management Areas





Sablefish Management Areas

equation yields the number of pounds of IFQ that may be harvested that year. Put simply, the preceding explanation can be expressed as follows:

$$QS \div QSP \times TAC = IFQ$$

Note that although a person's QS remains the same, and the QSP may vary by a slight amount from year to year, the TAC may change significantly on an annual basis, depending on the condition of the stocks. As the TAC rises, so does each person's IFQ; as it declines, each person's IFQ likewise decreases.

In this manner, the total annual TAC is divided up; those to whom IFQ have been issued may then harvest their share at any time during the 8-month IFQ halibut and sablefish seasons. Those who do not hold QS are generally excluded from the fisheries, although some provisions for "leasing" IFQ exist.

Other Program Elements

As noted above, the Council took steps to insure that QS ownership would not eventually be consolidated into a very few hands. To accomplish this goal, strict limits on how much QS can be held by any one person are imposed on QS holders (persons who received more than the "cap" by initial issuance were "grandfathered" in; however, they may not receive more QS by transfer). Refer to *Appendix 1* for a break-down of current QS and IFQ caps.

In addition to the caps, the Council has provided for QS Blocking provisions. Under this element, QS that originally yielded less than 20,000 pounds of IFQ (using the 1994 QSPs and TACs) was issued as a block, and such blocks may not be subdivided upon transfer. Further, no person may hold more than two blocks of QS for the same species in any regulatory area (or one block and unblocked QS up to the cap). In this way, smaller amounts (blocks) of QS will always be available for those who wish to enter the fishery by obtaining QS by transfer.

To meet the goal of an owner-operated fleet, catcher vessel QS may only be transferred to individuals, and those individuals must be aboard the vessel when the fish are harvested and landed. In recognition of historical fishing practices, initial issues may (with some exceptions) hire skippers to fish their annual IFQ. Currently, the QS holder must own all or part of the vessel on which their hired



skipper will fish.

Quota share is classified in a variety of ways: by species, vessel category (see following table), and regulatory area. A variety of restrictions regarding harvesting and landing IFQ fish also exist. Although there isn't space here to discuss these in detail, more information about program restrictions can be found in the IFQ regulations or by contacting the Division.

Vessel Categories			
Vessel Length	Processor Vessel	Catcher Vessel	
		Sablefish	Halibut
Over 60'	A	B	B
>35' to 60		C	C
0 to 35'			D
Processor (Freezer) vessel - any vessel used to process its catch during any fishing trip.			

As previously noted, QS are transferable between eligible persons. QS may be transferred (with approval from the Division) between original QS recipients, and to those who meet eligibility requirements to receive quota share ("IFQ crewmembers"). This process is actively utilized: see Section 2 for more information on transfer activities.

IFQ Research

The IFQ program has been, and remains, controversial. Some citizens have expressed dismay about various elements of the program, including transferability and what are perceived to be "unfair" allocations.

To insure that such discussions and debates are based on facts, and not hearsay or rumor, a variety of research projects have been undertaken to quantify the performance of the IFQ program. At the September, 1996 Council meeting, research authors presented the results of their analysis of the first year of the program's implementation. Research topics included:

- Distributional Analyses to address the question of who got how much QS and whether that distribution changed as a result of transfers (conducted by the State of Alaska, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission)
- Impacts of the program on the operations of QS holders and processors (survey work undertaken by the University of Alaska-Anchorage, Institute of Social and Economic Research)
- Conservation Issues (a report jointly prepared by the International Pacific Halibut Commission and the NMFS Fisheries Science Center)
- Safety concerns (a report by the US Coast Guard)
- A report on enforcement activities and their costs (prepared by the NMFS Alaska Enforcement Division)
- A report on implementing the IFQ program and the cost of doing so (prepared by the RAM Division)

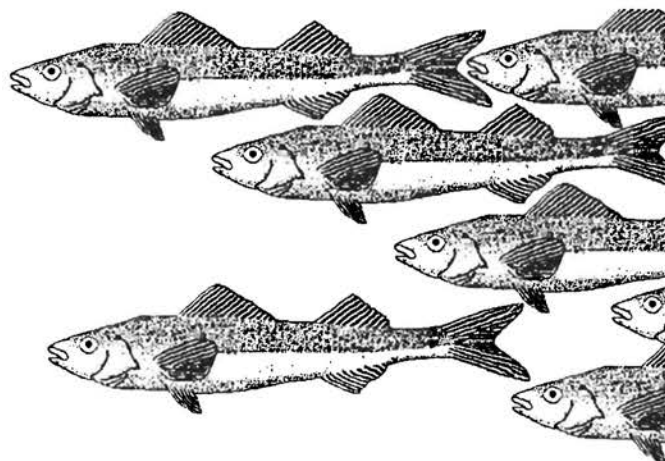
Copies of these reports are available from the agency that prepared them or by contacting the RAM Division or the Council.



In addition to the 1996 research efforts, the Division is committed to continuing research on the distributional effects of the program and is attempting to extend its contract with the State of Alaska, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission to produce additional reports. Also, under recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the National Academy of Sciences is to conduct a study of the IFQ and CDQ programs and report its findings and recommendations to Congress in 1998.

Please Read On

Throughout the remainder of this report, we discuss the 1996 season (from a variety of perspectives), changes being implemented during the 1997 season, and a preview of changes that are being contemplated for future seasons.



Section 2

1996 IFQ Season in Review



In spite of the start-up problems, fishing during the 1996 season went smoothly, and a much higher percentage of the available IFQ TACs were harvested than in 1995. At the conclusion of the season on November 15, only 5% of the state-wide halibut IFQ TAC remained to be harvested and 6% of the state-wide sablefish IFQ TAC remained to be harvested. In contrast, as of the conclusion of the 1995 season, the remaining statewide halibut IFQ TAC amounted to 13%, while the remaining statewide sablefish IFQ TAC amounted to 10%. Note that these numbers do not include CDQ allocations.

By area, the remaining 1996 halibut IFQ TACs ranged from 3% (634,400 pounds) in area 3A to 23% (88,600 pounds) in area 4C. Remaining sablefish TACs show somewhat greater variation, ranging from only 3% (350,600 pounds) in the Central Gulf to 27% (266,100 pounds) in the Bering Sea.

One significant change from 1995 was the rate at which the IFQ TAC was harvested.

This was particularly true in the halibut fishery, in which a much larger percentage of the TAC was harvested much earlier than in 1995. Overall, the variations in percent of harvest by month were similar to last years: June, September, and October of both years were the three months with the greatest halibut harvest, while April, May, and June were the top three months for sablefish.

The big difference, however, is the amount of halibut that was landed during the first two months of both years -- by May 15, 1996, fully 23% of the IFQ TAC had been harvested, as compared to 11% during those two months in 1995. The graphs in *Appendix 2* display these phenomena in greater detail.

Top 1996 IFQ Ports

Kodiak, Homer, Seward, Dutch Harbor/Unalaska, and Sitka were the top five halibut ports in 1996, as they were in



1995. For sablefish landings, Seward, Sitka, Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, and Petersburg were the top ports in both of the last two years. For a more complete ranking of these ports and the amount that was landed at them, as well as IFQ landings made at non-Alaskan ports, see *Appendix 3*.

Registered Buyers & Transaction Terminals

Registered Buyer Permits (RBPs) are issued annually by the Division. RBPs authorize the person identified on them to receive or make IFQ landings. They are required to be held by:

- Entities that receive (buy) IFQ/CDQ fish from IFQ harvesters.
- IFQ permit holders who sell their catch to someone who is not a Register Buyer.
- IFQ permit holders who transfer their catch out of state or at sea.
- Each "hired skipper" employed by an IFQ holder and conducting any of the preceding activities must apply for their own RBP.

During 1996, the Division issued 862 permits, but well under one-half (338) of those Registered Buyers actually reported landings of halibut or sablefish.

Landings of IFQ halibut and sablefish must be made using electronic transaction terminals (supplied and programmed by NMFS) and personalized landing cards. After users experienced difficulties reporting landings electronically, terminal software was upgraded in the spring and early summer of 1996. Subsequently, more than 75% of all IFQ/CDQ landings were made with the terminals (rather than faxed-in reports). Of the over 350 terminals

distributed, 115 of them were used for reporting landings in 1996.



Hired Skipper Activity

The privilege of hiring a skipper to fish one's IFQ is restricted to those holding processor QS (also known as freezer shares) and to initial issuees of catcher vessel QS. These initial issuees may hire a skipper to fish their IFQ, but only if they (the QS holder) own the vessel upon which the fishing is to occur. An exception to this rule exists for individuals holding QS in the SE and 2C IFQ regulatory areas; in those areas, the privilege of hiring a skipper is restricted to initial issuees who are partnerships or corporations.

Throughout the 1996 IFQ season, 390 "hired skipper" IFQ Permit Cards were issued to persons who were not QS holders but who were designated by one or more QS holder(s) to fish their IFQ.

Some concern over the interpretation of the phrase "owns the vessel" (upon which the IFQ is to be used) may lead to changes in these rules. This is due in part because some IFQ holders, who may not have any significant ownership interest in a vessel, simply execute a "Bill of Sale" whereby they purchase 1% (or less) of a vessel in order to hire a skipper. Some regard that



this practice as an abuse of Council intent, and the Council will be reviewing this rule during 1997

QS and IFQ Transfer Activity

Both halibut and sablefish QS can be permanently transferred to qualified recipients. Some or all of a person's annual IFQ amount may also be transferred to another person. During 1996, the Division processed a total of 1,943 transfer transactions. This number includes "sweep-ups", which is the combination of small blocks of QS. Recent changes in the rules that govern sweep-ups are covered in greater detail in *Section 3*. Since the time QS were first issued in 1994, more than 3,600 transfers have been processed. *Table 3* in *Appendix 4* gives a breakdown of different transfer categories.

Another way of examining transfer trends is to examine the interplay between Alaskans and non-Alaskans in 1996. For halibut, 228 permanent QS transfers to Alaskans from non-Alaskans, and 227 permanent QS transfers from Alaskans to non-Alaskans yielded a net gain of QS to Alaskans. This gain amounted to 2,532,447 units. Transfer of halibut IFQ only for the 1996 season resulted in IFQ derived from an additional 1,292,829 units of QS being transferred to Alaskans. "IFQ only" means that no permanent transfer of quota share occurred, rather, only the seasonal poundage associated with those shares was transferred.

As far as sablefish goes, 65 permanent QS transfers to Alaskans from non-Alaskans, and 54 such transfers from Alaskans to non-

Alaskans yielded a net gain to Alaskans in the amount of 4,841,899 units. *Appendix 4, Tables 1 and 2* illustrate these statistics in greater detail.

New Entrants to IFQ Fisheries

An important feature of the IFQ program is that only those who received QS by initial issuance and those individuals who qualify as "IFQ Crew Members" (by demonstrating that they have served at least 150 days on the harvesting crew in any U.S. fishery) may receive unrestricted Catcher Vessel QS by transfer. Those who have gained the status of eligibility to receive QS and IFQ by transfer are issued Transfer Eligibility Certificates (TECs) by the RAM Division. Additionally, business entities wishing to purchase Processor Vessel Category QS (or lease Processor Vessel IFQ) may apply for transfer eligibility status without demonstrating any prior fishing experience.

As of December 31, 1996, the Division had processed 1,354 applications for TECs from individuals who did not receive QS by initial issuance. Of the TECs issued, 1,017 (75%) were issued to Alaskans, while 337 (25%) were issued to non-Alaskans. Once eligible to receive QS, 872 individuals, [of whom 660 (76%) were Alaskans and 212 (24%) were non-Alaskans] actually received some by transfer for the first time (see *Appendix 4, Table 4*).



Administrative Appeals Update

Between late 1994 and December, 1996, the Division issued approximately 1,700 Initial Administrative Determination (IADs) on applications for QS. Each IAD represented a denial, in whole or in part, of an applicant's claims before the Division. Only 170 appeals (10%) of those IADs were lodged with the NMFS Office of Administrative Appeals. Of those, 22 have been settled privately, 64 have had final decisions issued, 38 have had decisions drafted, 44 are pending, and two are new.



Section 3:

The 1997 Season and Program Changes



1997 TACs and Quota Share Pools: Calculating Your 1997 IFQ

As noted in Section 1 the pounds of halibut or sablefish that you may harvest in any given year (your annual IFQ) is a function of the amount of QS you hold, the total amount of QS held by everyone in any given regulatory area (the Quota Share Pool), and the annual Total Allowable Catch of halibut or sablefish established for each regulatory area.

Of these factors, the biggest variable is the Total Allowable Catch. The TAC for halibut is set annually by the International Pacific Halibut Commission at its meeting in late January. The TAC for sablefish is established by the Secretary of Commerce, upon recommendations made by the Council at its December meeting. For 1997, the

TACs for halibut have been increased, in some areas quite dramatically; on the other hand, sablefish TACs have generally declined.

Appendix 5 displays, by regulatory area and species, the total amount of QS that has been issued, the 1997 TAC, and the ratio between QS and IFQ. This "ratio" is the amount of QS in a given area that will yield one pound of 1997 IFQ. To determine how many pounds of IFQ that you may harvest in an area in 1997, divide the number of QS units that you hold for a given area by the ratio for that area. For example:

10,000 units of 3A Quota	÷ 7.397	= 1,352 pounds of 1997 IFQ
-----------------------------	---------	-------------------------------

Note that the pounds of IFQ resulting from your IFQ calculation may be different



(higher or lower) from the total amount shown on your 1997 permit. One reason for the difference is "overage" or "underage" adjustments resulting from your 1996 fishing activities. Additionally, if you received any QS by transfer, underages or overages associated with those QS will be reflected in your IFQ balance (or may not, depending on the provisions of each transfer agreement).

In Progress

The IFQ program has been called a "work in progress" -- when the program was adopted, industry, the Council, and the Secretary of Commerce anticipated that adjustments to its provisions could prove to be necessary. They were right. Although the program has been in place for less than 3 years, a number of significant changes have already been enacted. Other changes are proposed.

The discussion below summarizes some of the major regulatory and administrative changes that have occurred recently, and discusses some amendments that are being contemplated for adoption. General areas of discussion include: administrative changes, fishing requirements, and landing requirements. Finally, we'll touch on other IFQ issues that are being considered or discussed by NMFS or the Council.

First, a word of caution. In reading this material, please note that:

This discussion of IFQ regulations is for informational purposes only; it should not be relied on as a statement of legal requirements or an interpretation of the regulations. Current regulations that govern the IFQ program can be found at 50 CFR 679.

• Administrative Changes

In December of 1996, the **"sweep-up levels" have been raised to 3,000 pounds for halibut, and 5,000 pounds for sablefish** (based on 1996 QSPs and TACs). This change increases the transfer options for those who hold, or seek, smaller blocks of QS. Previously, those levels were 1,000 pounds and 3,000 pounds, respectively (based on 1994 QSPs and TACs). The QS sweep-up limits for each halibut and sablefish area are shown in *Appendix 6, Table 1*.

Corporations and Partnerships must now designate a "hired skipper" to harvest their 1997 IFQ for them. These entities must apply for issuance of a "hired skipper" IFQ landing card from the Division, even if that person is one of owners of the QS. Additionally, the QS owning entity must own all or part of the vessel on which its "hired skipper" will fish its IFQ.

In the 1995 and 1996 IFQ seasons, the designated representative of a QS-owning partnership or corporation received a card that could be used to check IFQ balances AND record landings. **For 1997, these representatives will receive a "REP" card that may only be used to check IFQ balances.** If the representative intends to fish IFQs, a "hired skipper" card



(issued in their name) must be used for reporting landings.

There has been a **change in the halibut QS use caps for areas 4A, 4B, 4C, and 4D**. For these particular areas, the QS cap is now 1.5% of the 1996 QS pool. This establishes a set number of units (494,044) rather than the previous limit of .5% of the annual pools. The other halibut areas are also now fixed rather than variable: 2C has a 599,799 unit cap, and areas 2C, 3A, and 3B have a 1,502,823 unit cap. See *Appendix 1*.

• *Fishing Requirements*

The "**fish-down**" amendment that was finalized in August of 1996 gives QS holders more flexibility on the size of boat upon which they may fish their IFQ. With some exceptions, it allows people with QS in larger vessel categories to fish their annual allotment on a smaller vessel than was previously possible. For example, someone with Category B (>60' LOA vessels) QS in halibut area 3A can now fish their annual IFQ on a boat in a smaller vessel category, such as Category D (0-35' LOA). *Appendix 6, Table 2* illustrates this in greater detail.

Longline pot gear may now be used to harvest sablefish IFQ in the Bering Sea management area, except during the month of June. This is intended to prevent killer whale predation of sablefish landed via hook-and-line gear, thus potentially increasing the successful landing of sablefish and decreasing the conflict between fishermen and these whales.

• *Landing Requirements*

IFQ fishermen no longer have to remain aboard their boat in the interim between arriving in port and unloading their IFQ catch. This has been in effect since August of 1996 when a set of regulations (Omnibus II) was finalized. Other provisions under this rule including: easing restrictions on salmon fishermen making deliveries of IFQ fish; allowing transference of all QS and IFQ to the surviving spouse of a QS holder; allowing IFQ Shipment Reports to be submitted up to one week after the shipment occurred; and a variety of other revisions.

• *Changes Under Consideration for Later in 1997 or Future Seasons*

A proposal to **amend the 6-hour prior notice of landing** has been published. Under this proposal, the length of time for which such prior notices are valid is clarified. Fishermen would have to land their IFQ catch at the time specified in their prior notice of landing or within two hours after that time. If the vessel does not make the landing within these limits, the vessel operator would have to submit a new prior notice report.

An amendment to **clarify weight calculations of overages or underages** based on the weight of the IFQ catch at the time of landing is being prepared. This would also establish **standard deductions for ice and slime**.

Some QS holders may designate a skipper to fish their IFQ for them, as long as the skipper fishes the IFQ on a vessel owned wholly or partially by the QS holder.



Currently, there is no limit or restriction on the amount of ownership interest that a QS holder must have in a vessel for the purpose of hiring a skipper. **The Council has committed itself to reviewing this provision with the goal of clarifying and "tightening" the current rule.**

Due to concern about the possible bycatch of marine birds, particularly the endangered short-tailed albatross, the Council has approved measures to reduce the incidental mortality of seabirds in the groundfish longline fisheries. The IPHC has recommended similar measures for the halibut hook-and-line fisheries.

Regulations to address the marine bird issue are currently under development.

Current regulations provide that, upon the death of a QS holder, the QS may transfer to a surviving spouse (who may then lease the annual IFQ for a period of 3 years). The Council is considering proposing an amendment to that provision to include allowing the transfer to a "surviving heir" (not only a spouse).

Also under review is instituting **rolling closures for longline and trawl vessels during the sablefish longline survey.** This is being considered to minimize the impacts that fishing might have on the survey's biomass estimate.

NPFMC Calendar for IFQ Changes

The Council (which proposes all changes in the IFQ program) has established a schedule for considering such changes. Summarized, the schedule is as follows:

- *Summer:* Call for proposals from public

and industry for changes to program. Special forms to do this are available from the Council (ph. 907-271-2809).

- *September:* Proposals forwarded to IFQ Industry Implementation Team.
- *October:* Team reviews proposals and ranks their need and importance.
- *December:* Team reports findings to Council. RAM Division reports on previous IFQ season. Council reviews recommendations and directs their staff to conduct further analysis as necessary.
- *April:* Initial review of amendments.
- *June:* Final action on amendments by Council.

Magnuson-Stevens Act Amendments

Some of the recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act will directly affect the IFQ program. Those with the largest potential for direct program impact during 1997 include:

Title and Lien Registry. A new provision in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires NMFS to establish a "centralized" and "exclusive" registry system for recording title to, and security interests in, all Limited Access Permits issued by NMFS (including QS and IFQ permits). As a practical matter, this will affect the Alaska Region and the IFQ program far more than any other region.

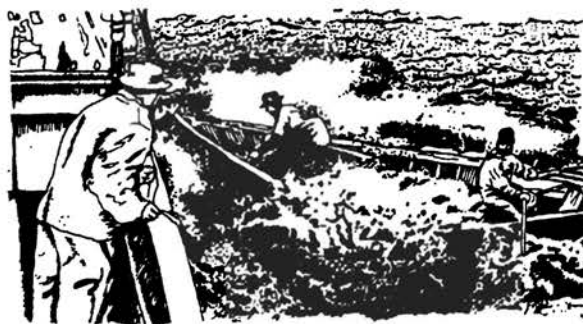
To implement this program, NMFS has published an "Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" (ANPR) in the Federal Register. The ANPR identifies a number of questions and issues associated with the registry and its implementation, and public comment is being solicited. Although the exact schedule is not known, it is expected



that the registry rules will be published in the Federal Register by mid-summer of 1997.

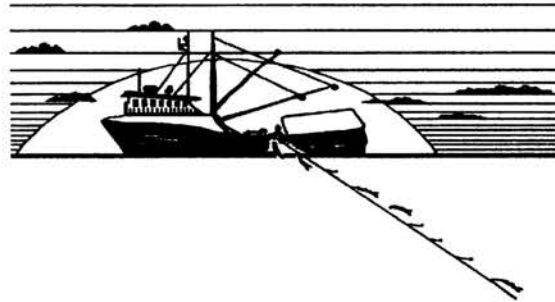
IFQ/CDQ Fees. Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NMFS must collect annual fees of up to 3% of the *ex-vessel* value of IFQ and CDQ landings from IFQ and CDQ holders. The mechanism for implementing this requirement is under discussion, but no decisions have yet been made. Actual collection of fees will probably not begin until the 1998 IFQ and CDQ seasons.

IFQ Research. The National Academy of Sciences is directed to conduct a comprehensive study of IFQ programs, and the Community Development Quota program, and to provide its findings and recommendations to Congress by no later than October 1, 1999. Although this effort has not yet begun, we expect that it will build, at least to a degree, on the research accomplished last year (and continuing analysis of the distributional effects of the program being provided by the State of Alaska, Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission).



Section 4

The Restricted Access Management Division



Through periodic reports to the Fleet (such as this one), visits to fishing communities, presentations at Council meetings, and other opportunities, RAM Division personnel are committed to providing fast, efficient, and friendly service to the public. The IFQ program remains controversial, and pressures on the RAM staff are at times intense (during 1996, over 2,500 telephone calls/month were logged by the Division).

As far as administrative activities go, there are usually eight to ten staff members directly involved with issuing permits, processing QS transfers, and assisting people who have program or regulatory questions. We provide service to almost 10,000 permit holders, so reviewing the following information and guidelines may help us assist you more quickly and efficiently.

RAM Responsibilities

In addition to keeping track of QS and IFQ permits, transfers, and transaction terminals, the Division is responsible for administering a variety of other federal fisheries permitting functions, including:

- IFQ Registered Buyer permits
- Federal Fisheries Permits (FFPs)
- Federal Processor Permits (FPPs)
- Vessel Moratorium permits and qualifications
- High Seas Fishing Compliance Act permits
- Scallop Moratorium program permits

Call us if you have questions about general requirements and application procedures for any of the above.

Tips for Receiving Good Service

- When you call about IFQ matters, **have your IFQ ID, permit number, or transfer number available.** For Federal Fisheries/Processor or Moratorium program matters, have your permit number or vessel ADF&G number available.
- Normal processing time for permit and transfer applications is five to ten working days from the time we receive



items. Incomplete or inaccurate applications may take longer. **Please - do not send a permit or transfer application immediately prior to a season opening or fishing trip and expect to receive that permit in time for the first day of the opening or trip.**

- **We will not process faxed-in applications if the signatures on them are required to be notarized; this includes many IFQ-related items.** Please mail the original, notarized application. We will accept faxed applications for FFPs and FPPs Registered Buyer, and Moratorium permits.
- If you have special handling requests, please let us know -- but do so **in writing**. We normally use first class mail, but will send things via express mail or other overnight carriers if you provide us with a pre-addressed, pre-paid mailer.

Besides the RAM Division, there are a variety of other agencies (including other NMFS divisions) that are involved in Alaskan fisheries resources. Should you have questions or need information about fisheries permitting or regulations that the Division does not directly administer, please contact one of the agencies listed in *Appendix 7*.





Appendix 1 **Quota Share Use Caps** **and Vessel IFQ Caps**

Halibut QS Use Caps		
Applicable % of QSP	Size of 1996 QSP	QS Use Cap
1% of 1996 2C QSP	59,979,977 QS units	599,799 QS units
.5% of 1996 2C, 3A, & 3B QSPs	300,564,647 QS units	1,502,823 QS units
1.5% of All Area 4 1996 QSPs	33,002,937 QS units	495,044 QS units
Halibut Vessel IFQ Caps		
Vessel Use Cap %	1997 IFQ TAC	Vessel Use Cap
1% of 2C IFQ TAC	10,000,000 net pounds	100,000 net pounds
.5% of All IFQ TAC	51,116,000 net pounds	255,580 net pounds
Sablefish QS Use Caps		
Applicable % of QSP	Size of 1997 QSP	QS Use Cap
1% of SE QSP	65,961,362 QS units	659,614 QS units
1% of All QSPs	315,983,735 QS units	3,159,837 QS units
Sablefish Vessel IFQ Caps		
Vessel Use Cap %	1997 IFQ TAC	Vessel Use Cap
1% of SE IFQ TAC	8,042,381 round pounds	80,424 round pounds
1% of All TACs	30,233,885 round pounds	302,339 round pounds

Notes and Explanations:

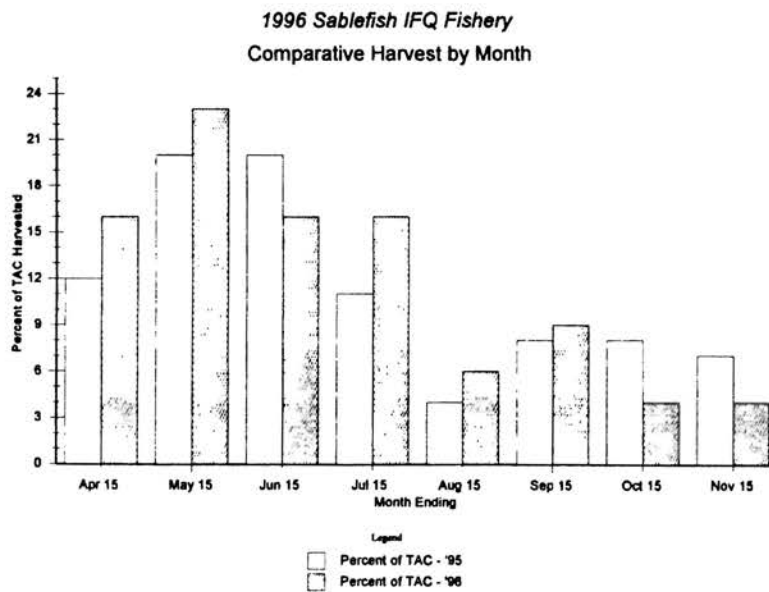
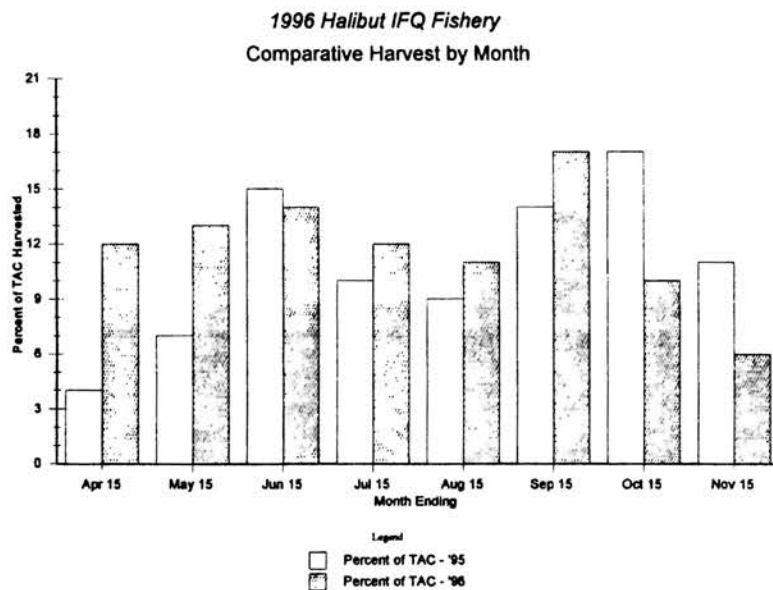
- Halibut QS use caps were fixed in February, 1997 using 1996 QS pools.
- Vessel IFQ caps are calculated on the IFQ TAC only, CDQ TACs are not included.
- Halibut weights are expressed in net (headed and gutted) pounds, and sablefish weights are expressed in round pounds.
- QS use caps apply to all QS held by a person, either individually or collectively.





Appendix 2

1996 Comparative Harvest by Month





Appendix 3

1996 Top Landings By Port

1996 Sablefish Landings by Port					
Rank	Port	Pounds Landed	Vessel Landings	1996 Percent of landing	1995 Rank and Percent
1	Seward	7,881,643	384	23.7	(1) 25.1
2	Sitka	4,888,448	453	14.7	(2) 14.8
3	Kodiak	3,907,511	285	11.8	(4) 10.9
4	Dutch Harbor	3,713,124	233	11.2	(3) 11.4
5	Petersburg	1,701,031	97	5.1	(5) 4.2
n/a	Total non-Alaska	1,938,303	88	5.8	3.8

1996 Halibut Landings by Port					
Rank	Port	Pounds Landed	Vessel Landings	1996 Percent of landing	1995 Rank and Percent
1	Kodiak	7,170,941	865	20.2	(1) 19.2
2	Homer	3,943,651	763	11.1	(5) 6.8
3	Seward	3,201,294	435	9	(3) 10.1
4	Dutch Harbor	2,897,170	301	8.2	(2) 10.5
5	Sitka	2,825,565	1027	7.9	(4) 9.8
n/a	Total non-Alaska	3,875,345	205	10.9	9.0

Notes and Explanations:

- Total 1996 IFQ sablefish landings were 33,196,479 round pounds; vessel landings totaled 2,368.
- Total 1996 IFQ halibut landings were 35,567,687 net (headed and gutted) pounds; vessel landings totaled 7,275.
- "Vessel landings" include the number of landings by participating vessels reported by IFQ regulatory area. Each such landing may include harvests from more than one IFQ holder.
- Landings at different harbors in the same general geographical location have been combined to report landings for the main port.





Appendix 4

Transfer Activities

Table 1: Sablefish Transfers to/from Alaska

Sablefish	Number of Transfers	QS Units
QS to Alaska from non-Alaska	65	7,320,687
QS from Alaska to non-Alaska	54	2,478,788
Net gain (loss) of QS to Alaska		4,841,899
Transfer of IFQ only (non-AK to AK)	32	3,988,945
Transfer of IFQ only (AK to non-AK)	2	177,820
Net gain of QS (and associated IFQ) to Alaska		3,811,125
Sweep-ups of QS (non-AK to AK)	1	3,471
Sweep-ups of QS (AK to non-AK)	4	11,208
Net gain (loss) of QS to Alaska due to Sweep-ups		(7,737)

Table 2: Halibut Transfers to/from Alaska

Halibut	Number of Transfers	QS Units
QS to Alaska from non-Alaska	228	8,757,513
QS from Alaska to non-Alaska	227	6,225,066
Net gain (loss) of QS to Alaska		2,532,447
Transfer of IFQ only (non-AK to AK)	12	1,387,112
Transfer of IFQ only (AK to non-AK)	27	94,283
Net gain of QS and associated IFQ to Alaska		1,292,829
Sweep-ups of QS (non-AK to AK)	12	91,935
Sweep-ups of QS (AK to non-AK)	7	21,268
Net gain (loss) of QS to Alaska		70,667

Note:

- The designation of "Alaskan" versus "non-Alaskan" is premised upon the address provided by QS holders and transfer applicants. The RAM Division makes no attempt to verify a person's state of legal address.
- The above tables exclude transfers between Alaskans and transfers between non-Alaskans.



Appendix 4, continued

Table 3: Summary of Transfer Activities

Transfer Activity	Halibut	Sablefish	Total
'95 Permanent QS Transfers	1217	352	1569
'96 Permanent QS Transfers	1397	351	1748
'95 IFQ-only Transfers	31	76	107
'96 IFQ-only Transfers	61	51	112
'95 Sweep-ups (combinations of small blocks of QS)	31	15	46
'96 Sweep-ups	63	20	83
Totals	2800	865	3665

Table 4: Summary of Transfer Eligibility Activities, 1994-1996

Residency Status	Crewmember TEC's issued	Crewmembers who have received QS by Transfer
Alaskan	1017	660
Non-Alaskan	337	212
Total	1354	872

Notes:

- The designation of "Alaskan" versus "non-Alaskan" is premised upon the address provided by QS holders and transfer applicants. The RAM Division makes no attempt to verify a person's state of legal address.





Appendix 5
1997 Quota Share Pools
and Total Allowable Catches

1997 Halibut and Sablefish QSPs and IFQ TACs			
Management Area	1997 Quota Share Pool (units)	1997 IFQ TAC (pounds)	Ratio (QS:IFQ)
Halibut 2C	59,100,570	10,000,000	5.910
3A	184,935,642	25,000,000	7.397
3B	53,909,787	9,000,000	5.990
4A	14,502,966	2,940,000	4.933
4B	9,284,774	2,784,000	3.335
4C	3,969,186	580,000	6.843
4D	4,790,491	812,000	5.900
4E	139,999	0	0
Sablefish SE	65,961,362	8,042,381	8.202
WY	53,189,319	5,048,534	10.536
CG	110,793,607	11,305,189	9.800
WG	35,918,873	3,280,445	10.949
AI	31,518,176	1,587,312	19.856
BS	18,602,398	970,024	19.177

Notes:

- The "ratio" displays the number of QS that yield one pound of 1997 IFQ.
- QSPs include small amounts of QS in "reserve" and amounts which at present are non-issuable but which may be issued during 1997.
- TACs do not include pounds that have been set aside for the CDQ program.
- Halibut weights are displayed in net pounds, sablefish weights in round pounds.





Appendix 6 Sweep-up Limits and "Fish-down" Provisions

Table 1: Sweep-up Limits

Halibut Area	Quota Share Units	Sablefish area	Quota Share Units
2C	19,992	SE	33,270
3A	27,912	WY	43,390
3B	44,193	CG	46,055
4A	22,947	WG	48,410
4B	15,087	AI	99,210
4C	30,930	BS	91,275
4D	26,082		

Note:

- 2 or more blocks of QS (in the same area and vessel category) may be combined up to and including the limit specified above. **When submitting your sweep-up application, please include ALL QS certificates for the blocks being swept up.**
- Based upon the 1996 QS Pools and TACs, these limits would yield 3,000 and 5,000 pounds of halibut or sablefish IFQ, respectively. The above limits may yield more or less than these amounts in 1997.

Table 2: "Fish-Down" Provisions

Catcher Vessel IFQ Category	Harvesting this species:	May be fished on a vessel with the following maximum LOA
B	Halibut	B, C, or D category (No LOA limit)
C	Halibut	C or D category (60 feet LOA limit)
D	Halibut	D category vessel only (35 feet limit)
B	Sablefish	B or C category vessel (no LOA limit)
C	Sablefish	C category vessel only (60 feet limit)

Note:

There is an EXCEPTION for area 2C halibut and area SE sablefish. In some instances, "B" Category IFQ may NOT be fished down. Category B IFQ resulting from (1) unblocked QS or (2) blocks of QS that yield 5,000 pounds or more of 1996 IFQ may not be fished down: it must be fished on a B category vessel (greater than 60 feet LOA). IFQ thus restricted is issued on a category "E" permit with a category "E" landing card.

- Category A IFQ may be harvested on a vessel of any length.





Appendix 7

References and Resources

NMFS maintains electronic information (such as news releases, landing reports, and regulations) for those involved in the fishing industry, as well as the general public. This can be accessed via the:

Alaska Region Internet Home Page: www.fakr.noaa.gov

or

NMFS Bulletin Board: 907-586-7259

Or we can be reached at the following numbers:

Division/Agency	Telephone	Fax	Responsibilities
RAM Division	800-304-4846 (press 2)	907-586-7354	IFQ permits, transfers, Federal Fisheries and Moratorium permits
	or 907-586-7202		
Regional Administrator	907-586-7221	907-586-7249	Alaska Region oversight and management
Fisheries Management Division	800-304-4846 (press 3)	907-586-7465 or 586-7131	Federal fisheries regs, logbooks, openings and closures, bycatch
	or 907-586-7228	(reports)	
Protected Resource Management Div.	907-586-7235	907-586-7255	Protected marine mammals and seabirds
Office of Appeals	907-586-7258	907-586-9361	IFQ and Moratorium appeal cases
Office of Enforcement, Juneau	800-304-4846 (press 1)	907-586-7313	IFQ landing/reporting requirements
	or 907-586-7163 (IFQ data clerk)		
	or 907-586-7225		
Anchorage	" 271-5745		
Dutch Harbor	" 581-2061		
Homer	" 235-2337		
Ketchikan	" 247-5804		
Kodiak	" 486-3298		
Petersburg	" 772-2285		



References and Resources, continued

Office of Enforcement

Sitka " 747-6940

Other Agencies

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, Comm'l Fisheries Division	907-465-4210	Regulation and mgmt. of comm'l fisheries in state waters (0-3 miles)
Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission	907-789-6160	Limited entry permits, gear cards, vessel licenses
International Pacific Halibut Commission	206-634-1838	US and Canadian halibut fisheries, vessel licenses
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council	907-271-2809	Fisheries issues and management plans

